

October 2005
State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems
Email Newsletter

Silver Spring, Maryland was the site of the **National Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Conference** from September 19 -21, 2005. Almost 200 folks gathered to share the progress their states and territories are making to integrate services for children birth to five years old. This email will focus exclusively on what was learned at the National Conference. Of course, one of the highlights of any conference is the networking that takes place. I left with contact information from colleagues throughout the country who are beginning the implementation of the SECCS grants. Here are highlights from the conference:

- **Implementation Phase begins:** 24 states have completed the planning phase of ECCS and are now in implementation. California has submitted our plan for implementing the SECCS Project and should hear within 60 days.
- **Child Care Health Consultancy Update:** 333 child care health consultants have completed the National Training Institute program through the University of North Carolina. There are more than 2000 child care health consultants trained throughout the states.
- **Utah Universal Application System, UtahClicks** is a web-based interagency application process designed to help families apply for multiple programs. UtahClicks is being implemented by the Utah Department of Health for six programs: Medicaid; CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program); Baby Your Baby; WIC (Women, Infants and Children Nutrition Program); Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) and Baby Watch/Early Intervention. In addition to the 24/7 application process, UtahClicks provides a secure area where electronically submitted applications can be retrieved by eligibility workers or other program staff. This Eligibility Staging Area provides an interface where eligibility workers and office managers can view applications, assign applications to eligibility workers, make notes about applications for themselves or make notes the consumer can view, view the history of an application and archive applications, as needed. For demonstration purposes demo.utahclicks.org has been set up.
- **Healthy Kids, Healthy Care** is a new web resource from the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care. This website is written for **Parents** on 34 topics they want to know about, such as accident prevention, behaviors, discipline, medicine in early care and education programs, and emergency preparedness. The information is based on Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care. Check it out at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/healthykids.htm>
- **Together for Kids Coalition - Massachusetts:** A 2001 Together for Kids (TFK) survey of 300 children ages 2 to 5 years found that 18% were at-risk for being expelled from early care and education programs as a result of "challenging behaviors." These behaviors include biting, hitting, aggression, temper tantrums, inattentiveness, impulsivity, destruction of property, social isolation and developmental delays. In response, the TFK Coalition, a community network of parents, providers, and advocates, created a model of support for children that includes mental health consultation, teacher training, parent skill development, and improved communication between the early care and education program and parents.

Preliminary findings show very positive results: the number of children being expelled from early care and education programs has dropped dramatically, staff turnover has declined, parents are taking more positive views of their children and demonstrating an

improved understanding of their child's development, and children's challenging behaviors are on the decline. The program is funded by the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts and the United Way of Central Massachusetts. For more information you can contact the Project Manager, Lynn Hennigan, at lhennigan@communityhealthlink.org

- **The Early Childhood System Building Tool** was created to help strengthen the involvement of the public health sector in early childhood and school readiness initiatives, regardless of the system's current stage of development. The tool provides a framework and helps to establish a common language for collaborative system building efforts. It also provides examples geared toward the particular roles, activities, and vantage point of state and local public health agencies, and state Title V maternal and child health programs in particular. This tool can serve as a communication and education tool for conveying to the public, policymakers, and other system partners the unique contribution and significance of maternal and child health programs to the goals of the early childhood system. The tool can also function as a template for other system partners to describe their own unique roles and activities.

The Early Childhood System Building Tool is framed around **five content areas** identified by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau as central to early childhood comprehensive systems:

- *medical home/access to primary care,*
- *mental health/social-emotional development,*
- *early care and education,*
- *family support, and*
- *parenting education.*

The Early Childhood System Building Tool also is structured along a **childcentered, natural continuum** from *child* and *family* through *community* and *state*, reflecting all of the levels at which the system must function and demonstrating the need to keep the intended beneficiaries of the early childhood system (children and families) central to all that occurs on their behalf. For more information, contact Marjory Ruderman: mruderma@jhsph.edu.

- **American Academy of Pediatrics - The Medical Home Mentorship Program**
AAP has developed three strategies to increase access to medical homes in the states:

Promise to the State: Outlines the steps that will be taken to make the provision of medical homes for children with special health care needs a reality by the year 2010.

Practice-Based Quality Improvement Activities: Notes the quality improvement plan to assist practices in increasing their medical homeness.

State Team: A roster and/or the medical home state contact information.
For more information contact: **www.medicalhomeinfo.org**

With partners throughout the country to share their successes, California is eager to embark on the implementation plan developed by the California SECCS Steering Committee and the many of you who have contributed to its development. Stay tuned to next month, when we will continue to highlight best practices of integration of services and the progress of California ECCS. If you know of a best practice in California, please contact Wendy Wayne at the email or phone numbers below.

If you are not interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates,

please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email wewayne@kern.org or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840. Visit the SECCS website at: <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccsfacts.htm>.